

**SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR DETERMINING A NATURAL COLOR
DEPTH OF A DIGITAL IMAGE**

Abstract

A system and method for determining a natural color depth of a digital
5 image is described. Color distances between each pair of colors in a color palette
stored for a digital color image are determined. A closest neighboring color for
each color in the color palette separated by a substantially minimum color
distance is selected. Each color pair that is visually indistinct is merged in
iterative sequence.

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